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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,854	09/18/2003	Detlef Fehrer	7395-000003	5773

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EXAMINER

HARTMAN JR, RONALD D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 02/10/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/666,854

Applicant(s)

FEHRER ET AL.

Examiner

Ronald D. Hartman Jr.

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 November 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 13,15,17,19-21 and 23-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 13,15,17,19-21,23,24 and 27 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 25-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 13, 15, 17, 19-21 and 23-27 are presented for further examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102 (maintained)

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 25-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Skeen et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,187,787.

As per claim 25, Skeen et al. teaches an electronic apparatus (e.g. Figure 1, element 10; "Host 1") that communicates with at least one additional electronic apparatus (e.g. Figure 1, element 12; "Host 2") via a data bus (e.g. Figure 1, element 14) using a predetermined communication protocol (e.g. C6 L56-59), the electronic apparatus comprising:

- a bus interface (e.g. Figure 1, element 20; "Communications Interface");
- a control engine which comprises:
 - an application specific engine that controls the electronic apparatus independently of the predetermined communications protocol (e.g. Figure 1, element 16); and
- a bus protocol specific engine that transmits and receives data via the data bus interface (e.g. Figure 1, element 30), wherein the application specific engine and the bus protocol specific engine are decoupled from one another (e.g. C2 L63- C3 L20) and the engines exchange data via a standardized interface (e.g. Figure 1, element 32), and wherein data received by the standardized interface is converted into the predetermined

communication protocol by the bus protocol specific engine and data received by the bus interface is converted into corresponding application specific data by the bus protocol specific engine (e.g. C8 L47-62).

In essence, claim 13 claims, and Skeen et al. adequately teaches, a system in which two CPU's or computers may communicate with one another using different communication protocols, wherein each CPU or computer possesses the ability to convert an incoming transmission in one protocol into another protocol used by the receiving CPU, and vice versa. In other words, each computer possesses a protocol converter for converting incoming signals into a protocol that may be utilized by the receiving computer.

As per claim 26, Skeen et al further teaches a single bus interface (e.g. Figure 1 elements 20 or 22) and a feature wherein a selection of an appropriate bus protocol is performed is a feature which is inherent to the teachings of Skeen et al since Skeen's system would not function if this step was not performed and since this is essentially the overall inventive concept of Skeen et al.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed on 11/14/2005, with respect to pending claims 25 and 26, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reason(s).

As per claim 25, and with reference to page 12 of the applicant remarks, the applicant has argued that the prior art of record fails to teach "electronic apparatuses being of the type defined ...". The Examiner respectfully disagrees. It appears that the applicant has argued that the prior art of record fails to teach the apparatuses being ONE OF a sensor, actuator OR controller (i.e. control). With reference to applicants originally filed claim 12, and with reference to Figure 1 of the applicants specification, it would appear that since Skeen teaches the communication of two computers (HOST1 and HOST2), and since a computer is clearly referenced as being one of the plurality of apparatuses, it would seem that Skeen does in fact teach the claimed plurality of

apparatuses in so much as a plurality of computers are disclosed. Applicant makes no distinction between the apparatuses claimed and the computers cited in Skeen.

Allowable Subject Matter

5. Claims 13, 15, 17, 19-21, 23-24 and 27 are allowed.

As per claims 13, 15, 17 and 19-20, specifically independent claim 13, and with regards to the amendments presented on 11/14/2005, and arguments in support thereof, the prior art of record fails to teach the applicants claimed invention; specifically the prior art of record fails to teach the added limitations incorporated by way of the amendment filed on 11/14/2005, in combination with the other claimed features and or limitation as claimed.

As per claims 21, 23-24 and 27, specifically independent claim 21, and with regards to the amendments presented on 11/14/2005, and arguments in support thereof, the prior art of record fails to teach the applicants claimed invention; specifically the prior art of record fails to teach a configuration apparatus for configuring an electronic apparatus, wherein both the configuration apparatus and the apparatus being configured have a standardized interface, which is utilized for communicating between application specific engines and bus protocol specific engines of both the configuration apparatus and the apparatuses being configured. See applicant's remarks on page 10 for further details of this feature. Further, as amended, the prior art of record fails to teach the configuration apparatus reading out and setting application specific predetermined settings of the apparatus to be configured, in combination with the other claimed features and or limitations as claimed.

Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within

Art Unit: 2121

TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ronald D. Hartman Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3684. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri., 11:00 - 8:30 pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached on (571) 272-3687. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

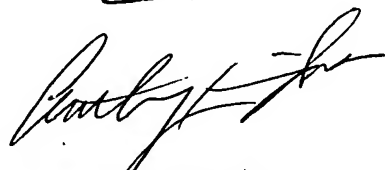
Ronald D Hartman Jr.

Patent Examiner

Art Unit 2121

X RDH

January 30, 2006


Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600